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# A Cabin Longside The Bay

CPYRGHT

*This is the fifth of a series  
on Washington area families  
who have created Summer  
'Estates' on a Budget.*

*By Maxine Cheshire*

CPYRGHT

THERE'S salt-water swim-  
ing in front of the William  
F. Pfeiffers' summer home  
and fresh-water fishing be-  
hind it.

The Washington and Lee  
High School band instructor  
and his family live three  
months of the year at Scien-  
tists Cliff, Md. The Ches-  
apeake Bay is 216 steps down  
the hillside from the front  
door. And a well-stocked  
little artificial lake, which  
yields bluegill or bass for  
the dinner table, lies just be-  
yond the backyard garden.

The Pfeiffers are one fam-  
ily of summer residents who  
don't have to worry about the  
man of the house commuting  
back and forth to town each  
day.

"I go in only on Thurs-  
days to give private music  
lessons," he says. The rest  
of the week Pfeiffer is em-  
ployed as recreation director  
for the Scientists Cliff Com-  
munity House. There are  
more than 150 families living  
on the 1000-acre develop-  
ment, and it is his job to see  
that they don't get bored just  
lying in the sun or splash-  
ing around in the water.

Sports crowd the schedule.  
But there are also parties,  
and a Saturday morning art  
class. A CIA employe, Bob  
Coffin, volunteers as instruc-  
tor. Students include Mrs.  
Pfeiffer.

At Scientists Cliff, opened  
in 1935, residency is restricted  
to college graduates. The  
rules originally specified that  
all property was to be sold  
only to college graduates in  
the field of science.

Owners say the "college de-  
gree" restriction isn't snob-  
bish. It's only intended to  
attract professional people  
who have a great deal in  
common.

THE Pfeiffers' handsome  
log house was built three  
summers ago at a cost of  
\$6900. Scientists Cliff has a  
number of standard specifica-  
tion plans, and the cottage  
was built for the Pfeiffers  
following the plan they chose.  
Pfeiffer owns to a lack of en-  
thusiasm for building things  
himself.

The cottage will sleep 12,  
counting the one bedroom, a  
balcony or "loft" for the chil-  
dren, and sofa beds in the big  
living area.

Other furnishings in the  
living room include an old  
pump organ, a phonograph  
and a clarinet. Needless to  
say, the Pfeiffer neighbors  
are accustomed to music  
floating across the yard on  
hot summer nights.

"None of us really plays  
the organ. We just play at  
playing it," says Pfeiffer.  
"Bill and Robert are studying  
the piano, so they play  
around on the organ, too.  
But they much prefer to go  
down and use the piano at  
the Community House."

PFEIFFER, who looks half  
his age, spent 21 years in  
the Marine Corps and was  
with the Marine Band until  
he retired. He graduated  
from Peabody Conservatory

of Music in Baltimore and  
got his master's degree at  
Catholic University while still  
in service. Gardening oc-  
cupies a lot of Pfeiffer's  
spare time. And Mrs. Pfeiffer  
either cans the vegetables or  
goes into town to freeze them.

The Pfeiffer youngsters  
also include 4-year-old Eric.  
Bill is 14. Robert is 10.

"It's wonderful for them  
down here," says their moth-  
er. "They swim and fish—  
Bill holds the record for the  
biggest bass caught — and  
hunt sharks' teeth."

The Pfeiffers built their  
summer residence with sav-  
ings, plus a trust company  
loan obtained in nearby  
Prince Frederick.

"We save regularly for

"something special," says  
Pfeiffer. "Before, we'd al-  
ways spend the money for  
furniture or a trip or some-  
thing. This time, we de-  
cided to invest in this house."

Everything has worked out  
well. This year, Pfeiffer  
took over the duties of re-  
creation director. And the fam-  
ily rents out their seven-  
room house in Alexandria's  
Beverly Hills section for  
three months. This has helped  
pay for the summer place.

"There is a big demand for  
furnished houses in town  
during the summer," says  
Pfeiffer. "Servicemen come  
to Washington for refresher  
courses. So do college pro-  
fessors. We never have any  
trouble renting. We just start  
advertising in the papers on  
Memorial Day."

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